

Everett Police Department 2021 Strategic Initiatives

Department projects and priorities

Body Worn Camera Program

The Everett Police Department is proud of our relationship with the community and believes that a body worn camera program will provide an opportunity to record and share the great work of officers while promoting transparency and accountability. A relationship of mutual trust requires a constant commitment by officers to make each interaction a professional one, and is achieved through a culture of fair, just and equitable policing. Body worn cameras alone do not build public trust, but body cameras in conjunction with other progressive policing policies help build and maintain good community-police relationships. In 2020, EPD was awarded a \$300,000 Department of Justice grant to assist with start-up costs for a body worn camera program. In 2021, EPD will deploy body worn cameras to all of its patrol officers. Throughout the year, policies will be evaluated and refined to be consistent with best practices and industry standards. We will also monitor the program for both unanticipated and anticipated expenses, such as those associated with public disclosure.



LEAD Grant

LEAD, or Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, is a pre-arrest diversion program designed to keep people who commit low-level crimes out of jail, if they meet certain criteria. The LEAD program will allow police officers on the street the discretion to connect some of those contacted for low-level crimes with long term case managers in an effort to keep them out of the criminal legal system, off the streets, and help them work toward achieving stability in the community. In conjunction with the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, both the Everett and Lynnwood Police Departments will pilot and evaluate this new program in Snohomish County.



Project ABLE

ABLE, or Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement, is a program designed to prepare officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention. Project ABLE is a national hub for training, technical assistance, and research, all with the aim of creating a police culture in which officers routinely intervene as necessary to:

- Prevent misconduct
- Avoid police mistakes, and
- Promote officer health and wellness



ABLE principles are already a part of the culture at the EPD, but the program reinforces our practices in clear and meaningful ways. This is a Georgetown Law Innovative Policing program, with support from the global law firm Sheppard Mullin. EPD will be certifying trainers and plans to roll out training to all staff beginning in 2021.

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/innovative-policing-program/active-bystandership-for-law-enforcement/>

WASPC Re-accreditation

Accreditation is intended to further the professionalism of the law enforcement industry by providing an external review process for police departments to be certified as operating and adhering to industry best practices. Accreditation ensures accountability, transparency and serves as an outside, independent review of the Everett Police Department's policies, procedures and practices. Everett PD is one of approximately 60 law enforcement entities (including jails) currently accredited by WASPC and is due for re-accreditation in 2021.



Police Assessment

The Everett Police Department strives to deliver public safety services to the community in the most effective and efficient manner possible. To achieve this goal, it is critical that the department adopt modern day policing principles and technologies in a cost-effective way and always seek efficiencies without sacrificing public safety. In 2021, EPD will undergo an organizational assessment that, among other things, will look at areas such as staffing, patrol scheduling and deployment, community policing, technology and organizational efficiencies. Although the final report will likely not be published until late 2021 or early 2022, the work in earnest will begin in the fall of 2021.



Ongoing Commitments

While not specifically identified as a project in 2021 – underlying all of EPD's work will remain our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and the importance of viewing our work from such a lens. Additionally, the mental health and wellness of EPD employees will continue to be a matter of great importance as we look for ways to further support our staff. These strategic initiatives are very important to the Everett Police Department and our community and will help prioritize the department's work in 2021.